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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of) **MAIL STOP**
Martin F. Arlitt et al.)
Application No.: 09/368,635) Group Art Unit: 2166
Filed: August 4, 1999) Examiner: Isaac M. Woo
For: CONTENT CONSISTENCY IN A) Confirmation No.: 5764
DATA ACCESS NETWORK)
SYSTEM)
)

REPLY TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In an Official Action dated July 10, 2004, the Examiner has indicated that restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

Group I: Claims 1 and 3-7;
Group II: Claims 16-29 and 41-44; and
Group III: Claims 30-40.

Accordingly, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, the subject matter of Claims 1 and 3-7, with traverse. Applicants submit that the restriction requirement is in error. It is believed that in examining the non-elected claims, the Examiner will search the same classes of art as is required to search the invention of the elected claims, resulting in the same references being cited against both of the aforementioned groups of claims.

Thus, this restriction will not reduce the workload of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office or simplify prosecution of the application. As set forth in M.P.E.P. Section 803, there are two criteria for a proper restriction requirement between patentably distinct inventions: (1) the inventions must be independent or distinct as claimed; and (2) there must be a **serious burden** on the Examiner if restriction is not required. This portion of the M.P.E.P. requires that if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner **must** examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the aforementioned restriction requirement is respectfully requested. The provisional restriction is hereby made without prejudice to Applicants' right to file a divisional application or applications should the restriction and election requirements become final.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: October 10, 2007

By:


Patrick C. Keane
Registration No. 32858

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404
703 836 6620